

WE CLAIM:

1. A rate of spread tool comprising:
a geometric plotting element; and
at least one type of rate of spread scale, selectively being at least one of
an historical time and real time, related on the surface of the element.
2. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein the geometrical plotting element is a
triangular shaped element and is dimensioned to be about 21" long and about 10 ¼ "
wide at its base.
3. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein the historical rate of spread scale is
based upon previous large -scale brushfires, and the real time scale utilizes GPS
technology.
4. A tool as claimed in claim 3 wherein the historical rate of spread scale is
designed to address two brush fire environments, the environments being a brush fire
occurring under Red Flag conditions and a brush fire occurring under Non-Red Flag
conditions.
5. A tool as claimed in claim 4 wherein the Red Flag and Non-Red Flag
conditions are marked by indicators, the indicators being placed at selected time
intervals, selectively at about 30-minute apart time zones.
6. A tool as claimed in claim 5 wherein the delineation of 30-minute
projections of fire spread is effected by dividing the triangular shape into three 30-
minute times zones.
7. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein, in use, the tool is oriented so that
text on the tool is readable for a fire moving transversely on a north oriented map.
8. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein the base of the tool contains the real
time rate of spread scale that is calibrated into a 30-minute time projection.

9. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein, in use, upon receipt of the real time rate of spread from an observation source, the real time projection from the current head of the fire is plotted.

10. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein, in use, the tool is used for multiple projections upon the same map, and selectively different colors are used for different projections.

11. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tool includes historical and real time rate of spread scales, and distance indicators to identify mileage.

12. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein on a long axis of the tool there are mileage markers.

13. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein there is a marker to gauge width, including at its center, a mileage marker indicating a predetermined distance in each direction from the centerline, and wherein in use the long axis is perpendicular to the fire's width.

14. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tool contains at least one tip about which the tool is pivotable, the tip of the tool being blunted in shape, the shape being selected to reduce the tendency of breakage of the tip when the tool is used in a pivoting motion while identifying lateral fire spread upon the map.

15. A tool as claimed in claim 1 including at least one hole in the face of the tool, the holes being sized to accommodate a marker instrument.

16. A tool as claimed in claim 4 including holes placed at Red Flag and Non Red Flag demarcations.

17. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein, in use, when at least one, and preferably three, time zones are marked, the tool is removed, and a straight edge of the tool is used to create a straight line by aligning the edge over the dots to permit the drawing of a straight line.

18. A tool as claimed in claim 1 including holes, spaced along mileage markers one the tool at predetermined distance intervals for use when using multi-page maps.

19. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein a tool scale is employed to ensure a correlating map is used in conjunction with the tool.

20. A rate of spread tool comprising:
a selected geometrically shaped element;
at least one type of rate of spread scale, selectively being at least one of historical and real time, related on the surface of the element; and
wherein the historical rate of spread scale is based upon previous large-scale brushfires, and the real time scale utilizes GPS technology.

21. A tool as claimed in claim 20 wherein the delineation of defined time projections of fire spread is effected by dividing the shape into selected predetermined times zones, and wherein, in use, the tool is oriented so that text on the tool is readable for a fire moving fins predetermined direction.

22. A tool as claimed in claim 20 wherein the base of the tool contains the real time rate of spread scale that is calibrated into defined time projections, and wherein, in use, upon receipt of the real time rate of spread from an observation source, the real time projection from the current head of the fire is plotted.

23. A tool as claimed in claim 20 wherein the tool includes historical and real time rate of spread scales, and distance indicators to identify mileage.

24. A tool as claimed in claim 20 wherein there is a marker to gauge width, including at its center, a distance marker indicating a predetermined distance in each direction from the centerline, and wherein in use the long axis is perpendicular to the fire's width.

25. A tool as claimed in claim 20 wherein the tool contains at least one tip about which the tool is pivotable, the tip of the tool being blunted in shape, the shape being selected to reduce the tendency of breakage of the tip when the tool is used in a pivoting motion while identifying lateral fire spread upon the map.

26. A tool as claimed in claim 20 including at least one hole in the face of the tool, the holes being sized to accommodate a marker instrument.

27. A tool as claimed in claim 20 wherein, in use, when at least one, and preferably three, time zones are marked.

28. A tool as claimed in claim 20 including holes, spaced along distance markers on the tool at predetermined distance intervals, and wherein a tool scale is employed to ensure a correlating map is used in conjunction with the tool.